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GIZ GmbH



4-5 March 2021

**2 ALBANIAN RURAL
PARLIAMENT 2021
EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE
OF RURAL ALBANIA**

AGENDA



Rural Parliament remains a European project...

Promoted as a European model and project three years ago, the National Rural Parliament in Albania remains a project focusing on both good governance and inclusive and participatory democracy. The work from the first Parliament in September 2017 to these days features constant and sustainable efforts to create and consolidate an identity that is both representative and legitimate of the Albanian Network for Rural Development to help advocate for evidence-based policymaking and decision-making as well as the interests and priorities of rural communities.

ANRD is progressively taking its place as a representative of the interests of the private sector, civil society, and local government to address the country's challenges in sustainable rural development. Its public attitude to issues of sector governance have been very important in this respect. Over the past three years, ANRD is present across the entire country representing some 28 member organizations in its activity and consulting, in most cases, up to 400 representatives of both the public and private sectors.

The Albanian Network for Rural Development's significance is increasingly valued taking into account that it is holding this national forum ensuring inclusiveness under pandemic conditions as well. It is the active membership of ANRD that guarantees the success of this Parliament, bringing together online over 500 participants from all municipalities of the country, central government institutions, CSOs, representatives of international institutions, members of the Balkan Network and several European Rural Development Networks.

In five years of running its activities, ANRD has established decent collaborative relationships with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA), the Managing Authority, and other stakeholders at both central and local levels. And yet, regardless of its persistent efforts for an active role of the Parliament of Albania, ANRD has not achieved any kind of cooperation with the Parliamentary Committee of Production Activities, Trade and Environment. Additional efforts in these directions will become key objectives of our work in the future.

What differentiates the Albanian Network for Rural Development from other organizations is the identity it has created in the system of governance of the rural sector through hard work to improve the capacity of the sector in Albania and to establish and consolidate the instruments of public consultation on issues of rural development, monitoring, and drafting policy documents on better governance of agricultural and rural development, on awareness and

advocacy. An umbrella of civil society organizations, ANRD stands firm for the promotion of the LEADER approach across the country.

ANRD can claim merit in two complementary initiatives, such as the development of two consecutive editions of the “Pro Rural Woman” event in the municipalities of Tirana and Roskovec in an effort to make an annual tradition out of it. In addition, inspiring is the construction of the Rural Youth Hub to run on a specific and long-term work program aiming to bring together young men and women engaged in these directions. Work in this track is expected to advance further in the future.

ANRD has always received genuine support from the leaders of the Agricultural University of Tirana and its academic staff in all aspects of its work, including activities of the Rural Parliament. We very much hope in the perspective of this cooperation in the long run.

Also, special thanks go to the leaders of Epoka University, who supported the realization of the Parliament in an unusual format by making available the digital infrastructure in its premises.

Last but not least, these achievements would not have been possible without the support of the European Union, which has been the main funder of ANRD in its path of development and consolidation. We also thank the German Cooperation that, through GIZ assistance, gave its contribution in this important national event for the sector.

Thank you for your support and welcome to the second National Rural Parliament!

Sotirag Hroni

Chairman of the Board

The Albanian Network for Rural Development

Invitation

The Albanian Network for Rural Development has the pleasure to invite you to the 2nd Albanian Rural Parliament (ARP 2) that will be organized on 4-5 March 2021. The 2nd ARP - a joint effort by ANRD consisting of twentyeight local CSOs, in coordination with Agriculture University of Tirana and Epoka University – will bring together, both physically and remotely, people from rural areas as well as important actors of agricultural and rural development to discuss the challenges and actions which they can take to serve the well-being of rural people.

ARP 2 will be organized in a hybrid format in compliance with anti-COVID 19 measures. This form of combined participation will be implemented through the use of Hy-Flex technology enabled by Epoka University. The deployment of Hy-Flex infrastructure as a need to address communication challenges in the face of pandemic and social distancing highlights Epoka University as an epitome of the digitalization in Albania. This will require that the organizers and hosts of the event and also other guests (panellists, keynote speakers and moderators as well as rapporteurs) be physically present on the premises of Epoka University, in the rooms listed in the program.

Local stakeholders - farmers, youth, women, producer groups, administrative units, community groups, civil society organizations as well as any rural resident, etc. - mainly from areas with limited internet access and poor technological equipment – will be connected with the event of the second Albanian Rural Parliament through the Local Community Cells. The cells are a gathering of a small number of grassroots actors, up to 10 people, attending ARP2 remotely together and being an active part of it and its two-day discussions and program.

The rural parliament will be held in accordance with the anti-Covid-19 protocol. For this reason, all guests, physically present participants and online participants, with particular emphasis on those in community cells are requested to respect the anti-Covid-19 safety measures: wearing a mask, providing distances as well as respecting allowed number of participants in the same environment. These rules should not be violated for any reason.

Anyone interested in attending, participating and contributing to the second Albanian Rural Parliament is kindly requested to register in advance at the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

The same zoom link will be used both days. As the number of participants allowed by Zoom is limited, the organizers reserve the right to pre-approve the participation.

Looking forward to your participation!



Online: Registration link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErfuispz8sHdQ3UR1CRxMLlAK-QjsNWZo>



In person: Venue:
Epoka University



Time: 10.00 a.m.
Online, livestream in
Facebook

Meeting of the Organizing group
of the 2nd ARP
PRESS CONFERENCE

**In person**

Venue: Epoka University, Room A027

Online:**Registration link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8594860178>

09:45 – 10:00



Arrival of participants at EPOKA University
Registration of participants | Join zoom meeting

10:00 - 10:30



OPENING OF THE SECOND ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT WELCOMING & Warm greetings from hosts and organizers

- Evelina Azizaj, National Coordinator, Albanian Network for Rural Development
- Güngör Turan, Rector, Epoka University
- Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana,
- Milva Ekonomi, Ministre, Ministria e Bujqësisë dhe Zhvillimit Rural
- Mario Mariani, Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to Albania

10:30 - 12:30



PLENARY SESSION: The current debate on rural Albania. Opportunities and challenges

Two cases from the current rural realities will serve as the spark for the plenary debate. They will be presented by two virtual participants in the Rural Parliament, who represent different actors of rural development in Albania. Each of them will present a 'specific case', a rural reality that is experienced by a certain community, but at the same time they radiate a problem or concern for wider communities in Albania.

Panelists will react based on these brief interventions to bring their institutional perspective on discussing such cases and providing actionable recommendations for solutions in the future.

Moderator: Drini Imami

- Ilnisa Agolli, Journalist, “Villages of Albania” Program
- Marie Frroku, Women’s Group Leader, Gjegjan, Pukë
- Senior representative, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Frida Krifca, Director, Agency for Rural and Agricultural Development
- Zigo Rutkovskis, Preaccession Assistance Unit, DG AGRI, EC
- Birgit Schaefer, Senior Consultant, International Development Cooperation, GIZ
- Erinda Lika, Deputy Rector for Science and Projects, Agricultural University of Tirana
- Sotirag Hroni, Board’s Chairman, Albanian Network for Rural Development

12:30 – 14:00**Lunch break****14:00 – 14:15****RURAL TALKS - Small group discussions (First round)**

Introduction of World Café methodology and discussion issues, keynote speakers and moderators and the division in halls/rooms

The main objective of the Rural talks is to explore an issue from multiple perspectives and ensure the input from all stakeholders (farmers, public institutions, civil society organizations, youth and women, producer groups, rural residents, etc.) participating in the Rural Parliament, engaging them in two rounds of small group discussions on eight broad themes

Moderator: Desjana Grymshi, ANRD**Workshop 1. Being rural? Needs and challenges, positive experiences and opportunities**

Room: E211 Host organization: ADAD malore&COSPE

Moderator: Liljana Isaku, Adad malore

Keynote speaker: Xhevaire Dulja, Agriculture University of Tirana

Rapporteur: Rozeta Gradeci, COSPE

14:15 - 15:15



Workshop 2. Eksodi rural: Shkak apo pasojë?

Salla: E212 Organizata pritëse: RTM& Albanian Alps Alliance

Moderator: Benito Prendi, RTM

Keynote speaker: Fatmir Guri, Agriculture University of Tirana

Rapporteur: Gent Imeraj, Albanian Alps Alliance

Workshop 3. Small farmers - Significant contribution - Big problems

Room: E213 Host organization: RASP&ANRD

Moderator: Petrit Dobi, RASP

Keynote speaker: Orion Xhoxhi, Agriculture University of Tirana

Technical Input: Klodjan Rama, SRD project, GIZ

Rapporteur: Desjana Grymshi, ANRD

Workshop 4. The role of municipalities in the rural development

Room: E214 Host organization: IDM&KSR

Moderator: Lorena Totoni, Institute for Democracy and Mediation

Keynote speaker: Agron Haxhimali, Albanian Association of Municipalities

Rapporteur: Denis Lushi, Club of young entrepreneurs

Workshop 5. Agriculture and rural development in the context of natural disasters' challenges

Salla: E311 Host organisations: IBB&AgroPuka

Moderator: Enver Isufi, Institute of Biological Agriculture

Keynote speaker: Shpresim Domi, Agriculture University of Tirana

Rapporteur: Vitor Malutaj, AgroPuka

Workshop 6. EU for rural areas: What IPARD's experience teaches us so far?

Room: E312 Host organization: CBS

Moderator: Grigor Gjerci, Managing Authority, MARD

Keynote speaker: Saimir Musta, Department of Projects' Selection and Approval, ARDA

Rapporteur: Ergent Pire, CBS

Workshop 7. Innovation & technology and human resources (research, digitalization that closes the urban-rural gap, mechanization and technology, information and exchange)

Room: E313 Host organization: WSA&Agrinet
 Moderator: **Tatjana Dishnica**, Woman in Sustainable Development
 Keynote speaker: **Edvin Zhllima**, Agriculture University of Tirana
 Technical Input: **Roland Cela**, SRD project, GIZ
 Raportues: **Nikolin Karapanço**, Agrinet

Workshop 8 Community-led local development - The dynamic of the implementation of the Leader approach and the way forward

Room: E314 Host organization: VIS Albania&MADA
 Moderator: **Anna Carboni**, VIS Albania
 Keynote speaker: **Roland Bardhi**, MADA
 Rapporteur: **Eva Dashi**, Agriculture University of Tirana

15:15 – 15:45



Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45



RURAL TALKS - Small group discussions (Second round)

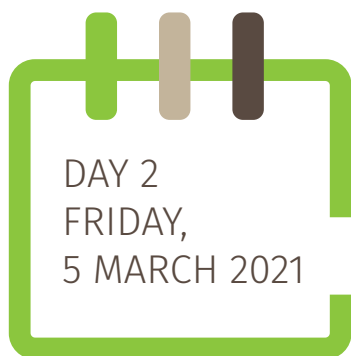
W 1. Being rural? Needs and challenges, positive experiences and opportunities
 W 2. Rural exodus: Cause or effect?
 W 3. Small farmers - Significant contribution - Big problems
 W 4. The role of municipalities in the rural development
 W 5. Agriculture and rural development in the context of natural disasters
 W 6. EU for rural areas: What IPARD's experience teaches us so far?
 W 7. Innovation & technology and human resources (research, digitalization that closes the urban-rural gap, mechanization and technology, information and exchange)
 W 8. Community-led local development - The dynamic of the implementation of the Leader approach and the way forward

16:45 – 17:30



PREPARATION OF CONCLUSIONS FROM THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In the rooms of the above workshops



In person

Venue: Epoka University

Online:

Access Link Registration link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZErFuispz8sHdQ3UR1CRxMLlBAK-QjsNWZo>

9:15 – 09:30



Arrival & Registration of participants

- | Join zoom meeting
- | Room A027

09:30 – 09:45



PLENARY SESSION

- Thorben Kruse – Leader of component Agriculture & Rural Development – SRD project, GIZ
- Short speech and introduction of the new instruments for support - CoSolove

GREETINGS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMNET

- Eglantina Gjermeni, Member of Albanian Parliament
- Rigerta Loku, Farmer, speaker in the first Albanian Rural Parliament

09:45 – 11:00



CONCLUSIONS from RURAL TALKS

Presentations from thematic workshops

Workshops' rapporteurs (1-8)

W 1. Being rural? Needs and challenges, positive experiences and opportunities Rozeta Gradeci

W 2. Rural exodus: Cause or effect? Gent Imeraj

W 3. Small farmers - Significant contribution - Big problems Desjana Grymshi

W 4. The role of municipalities in the rural development Denis Lushi

W 5. Agriculture and rural development in the context of natural disasters Vitor Malutaj

W 6. EU for rural areas: What IPARD's experience teaches us so far? Ergent Pire

W 7. Innovation & technology and human resources (research, digitalization that closes the urban-rural gap, mechanization and technology, information and exchange) Nikolin Karapanco

W 8. Community-led local development - The dynamic of the implementation of the Leader approach and the way forward Etleva Dashi

11:00 – 11:20

**Coffee break**

11:20 – 12:30

**PLENARY SESSION: YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS AT THE CROSSROADS**

Room A027

Youth Debate: Staying or leaving the village!

The youth debate is structured and will be instrumental for young people to explore the reasons behind their migration from rural areas, to exercise their voice and to offer a positive perspective on youth concerns and perspectives.

Moderator: Eva Kushova

Panellists:

From ANRD Rural Youth Hub:

- Gent Imeraj
- Esmeralda Metko
- Labinot Murrja
- Safete Qato
- Ardit Frroku

From Tirana Agricultural University:

- Armela Duka
- Anxhela Morina
- Fabio Hithi
- Majkell Jajaj
- Melisa Rrapaj

Reactions and Concluding Remarks:

- Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Alban Ibrahliu, Deputy Rector, Agriculture University of Tirana
- Sofjola Kotelli, Representative of GIZ, SRD Project
- Alberto Sartori, RTM, manager of the project 'Rural You', funded by EU
- Kleina Kasanai, General Director, National Youth Agency

12:30 – 13:00

**CONCLUDING SESSION****Reading the Declaration of the Second Albanian Rural Parliament 2021**

Joint Declaration of the Second Albanian Rural Parliament – the joint vision for rural communities and a set of recommendations addressing the development priorities of rural development in Albania.

Photos, meetings and greetings

Departure of participants

GENERAL AND LOGISTIC INFORMATION ON THE SECOND ALBANIAN RURAL PARLIAMENT

- The 2nd ARP - a joint effort by ANRD consisting of twentyeight local CSOs, in coordination with Agriculture University of Tirana and Epoka University – will bring together, both physically and remotely, people from rural areas as well as important actors of agricultural and rural development to discuss the challenges and actions which they can take to serve the well-being of rural people.
- ARP 2 will be organized in a hybrid format combining physical presence with remote one, in compliance with anti-COVID 19 measures. This form of combined participation will be implemented through the use of Hy-Flex technology (for physical participation in the premises of Epoka University, and for the virtual one through the zoom platform, in the access link that the organizers will send by email).
- The organization of the ARP2 in a hybrid format will be enabled by Epoka University. The deployment of Hy-Flex infrastructure as a need to address communication challenges in the face of pandemic and social distancing highlights Epoka University as an epitome of the digitalization in Albania.
- The hybrid format will require that the organizers and hosts of the event and also other guests of the Parliament, panellists, keynote speakers and moderators as well as rapporteurs be physically present on the premises of Epoka University, in the rooms listed in the program. Also, all other participants, invited by ANRD and / or interested in participating will follow it remotely by connecting to the Zoom platform through the access link that ANRD will share;
- The connection of local stakeholders - farmers, youth, women, producer groups, administrative units, community groups, civil society organizations as well as any rural resident, etc. - mainly from areas with limited internet access and poor technological equipment – with the event of the second Albanian Rural Parliament will be carried out through the Local Community Cells.
- Local Community Cells are enabling units for virtual participation in ARP2. They are a meeting place for a small number of local actors up to 10 people who follow ARP2 remotely together and are an active part of ARP 2's two-day discussions and program. The Local Community Cell will be facilitated and managed by the Local Coordinator.
- The establishment of Community Cells will be done under the coordination of ANRD according to a wide geographical distribution.

- Anyone interested in attending, participating and contributing to the second Albanian Rural Parliament is kindly requested to register in advance at the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212345>. The same zoom link will be used both days. As the number of participants allowed by Zoom is limited, the organizers reserve the right to pre-approve the participation.
- For all participants who will not be able to register; we invite you to follow and react from the Facebook page of the Albanian Rural Development Network, where Parliament will be broadcast live. <https://www.facebook.com/anrd.al>
- Community cell coordinators must participate in the online orientation session that will be organized by the Albanian Network for Rural Development in the last week of February 2021.
- ARP 2 will be conducted in accordance with the rules of the anti Covid-19 protocol. For this reason, all guests, physically present participants and online participants, with particular emphasis on those in community cells are requested to observe anti-Covid-19 safeguards including wearing a mask, securing distances, adhering to the schedule of curfew and keeping the allowed number of participants in the same environment. These safety rules should not be violated for any reason.
- The thematic workshops planned in the program of the Albanian Rural Parliament II will use the Rural Café method, which is an adaptation of the well-known World Café method.
- Eight thematic workshops are planned included under the Rural Talks session which will take place in two rounds. Each round will last 60 minutes.
- All eight workshops will be held in parallel at the same time. Each ARP 2 participant has the opportunity to participate in two workshops, one in the first round and one in the second.
- Each workshop will have a specific discussion topic. The topics are broad.
- A keynote speaker, moderator and rapporteur has been appointed for each workshop (combination of UBT academic staff and other experts as well as member organizations of ANRD and other CSOs).
- Ideally, the three conductors of each workshop will be physically present in a room on the premises of Epoka University. See the ARP 2 program for the room number.
- All ARP2 participants will join the discussion virtually through the Zoom platform.

- With the exception of Rural Talks (thematic workshops), simultaneous English translation will be provided throughout the rest of the program.
- Please use #RuralAlbania when posting on social networks
- For more information contact: info@anrd.al

***The Albanian Rural Parliament
is part of the European Rural Parliament movement.***



Second Albanian Rural Parliament

European Perspective of Rural Albania

Albanian Rural Parliament (ARP) is an initiative of the Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD) and represents a platform of advocacy, capacity building and networking dedicated to rural development. Albanian Rural Parliament is part of the pan-European rural movement aimed at the welfare of rural residents (<https://anrd.al/parlamenti-rural-shqiptar-2/>)

The platform of the Albanian Rural Parliament is a comprehensive practice that aims to influence and accelerate the reform processes in the rural sector for revitalization of rural communities.

The second Albanian Rural Parliament is organized following the first Parliament (September 2017) and in response to the current challenges of agricultural and rural development.

The second parliament will confirm the ANRD's efforts to turn the rural parliament platform into a national regulatory framework for rural and agricultural development with a view to promoting and sustaining national dialogue on sector governance.

The Albanian Rural Parliament II - a decentralized platform - will be organized following four regional rural forums to conclude stakeholder advocacy efforts at all levels.



REGIONAL RURAL FORUMS

During March-July 2020, ANRD organized four regional rural forums which animated the dialogue and boosted the contribution of various public and non-public actors. This moment has been important to examine the reality and get better acquainted with the needs and problems, to reflect on the vision and priorities to empower rural communities across the country. In this context, ANRD created discussion and consultation space, as well as other alternatives to gather contributions from various stakeholders on critical issues that rural sector and communities are facing, vision for the future and recommendations to improve the rural sector and country life.





NEW CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT - A turning point in the participatory design of rural strategies

The development of the new sectoral strategy should naturally begin with the consultation of stakeholders whose needs it should address, while its implementation requires the co-ownership of rural zone's residents as the target group benefiting from the strategy. Despite efforts made to involve stakeholders in the process of formulating agricultural and rural development strategies and programs, there is a need to shift to higher levels of civic participation such as consultation, dialogue and partnership. It is also necessary a broader involvement of different stakeholders, not only of organized groups, but also groups, initiatives, individuals with strong leadership in local communities that are not involved in policymaking processes.

The Albanian Rural Parliament aims to bring farmers, rural residents, youth and rural women, producer groups, academia, CSOs and other stakeholders closer to policymakers who will be informed on and become familiar with their needs, interests and priorities. This input has to be taken into account throughout the process of drafting the new cross-sectoral agriculture and rural development strategy.



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SCHEMES - Building partnerships and trust between farmers and sector governance

This component underpins the crucial need for constant national dialogue on governance of agriculture and rural development, a dialogue aimed at raising awareness and discussing the challenges and barriers that hinder sectoral support policies and instruments to be effective against real problems and needs as well as find viable and sustainable solutions.

Budget support for agriculture and rural development is very small and disproportionate to the economic and demographic relevance and to the real needs of the sector. Moreover, this support turns out to be significantly lower than in all countries of the region. The ARP II advocacy relates to increasing national budgetary support for agriculture and rural development enabling an operational partnership between Albanian government sector and farmers and rural populations. Aligning budget support for agriculture and rural development with countries in the region will also be the advocacy moto of this parliament.



RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT - The reality of young people in rural areas amidst challenges and aspirations for the future

Given the important role and contribution of young people to the sustainability of social life in rural areas, agriculture and food security, their migration is one of the biggest challenges and the main sustainability risk for the whole sector. In the meantime, public policies have been ineffective to address issues related to youth inclusion in agriculture, as well as the increasing trend of their migration.

Now the time calls for policies that reflect the real needs and priorities of rural youth, and that are driven by young people's aspirations for the rural future. To this purpose, a radically new approach to rural reality must be formulated – let's see the rural world from the perspective of youth. The rural parliament will try to understand and explain the current situation of rural youth (needs and priorities) as well as their aspirations and dreams (vision for the future) on rural communities.



GET THE LEADER APPROACH UP AND RUNNING IN ALBANIA - Activating and Supporting Local Leadership

European policy-driven rural development - as a cross-sectoral approach involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders - represents a new paradigm for participatory rural development enabled through the implementation of the Leader approach. However, the implementation of this approach in Albania faces difficulties and challenges mainly related to the low level of social capital, the significant lack of local government capacities, civil society organizations and businesses to enter into long-term partnerships that comply with the principles of the LEADER approach.

The LEADER approach puts local people at the heart of development through Local Action Groups (LAGs) and as such supports and requires local leadership and ownership. Following the advocacy and capacity building for the LEADER approach during the First Rural Parliament, the debate on a national enterprise for its implementation resumes. For a successful implementation of the LEADER approach in Albania, local level initiatives must be supported. In this regard, proactive efforts are required by the MARD to align European rural development policy - community-led local development - with local dynamics and citizens' needs.

Guidelines on Virtual Participation in the Second Albanian Rural Parliament Through Community Cells

→ What are the local community cells?

Local Community Cells are enabling units for virtual participation in ARP2 using the Hy-Flex (Hybrid Flexibility) methodology. Simply put, a gathering of a small number of grassroots actors, up to 10 people, attending ARP2 remotely together and being an active part of it and its two-day discussions and program. Each Local Community Cell will be facilitated by its Coordinator.



→ What is their purpose?

The establishment of Local Community Cells aims to enable and maximize the virtual participation of rural communities in ARP2 through provision of digital tools and internet access as well as anti-COVID-19 safeguarding measures. This will enable physical meetings in small groups, up to 10 people, as the pandemic protection rules require.

The setting up of Local Community Cells relates to the need to organize Albanian Rural Parliament in the conditions of the pandemic and reflects the effort of ANRD to find innovative instruments to connect stakeholders at the local level, especially focusing on those groups that lack access to developmental and decision-making processes affecting their lives. Local community cells - or virtual participation units - will link the ARP2 platform and event to farmers and other active rural community stakeholders, and enable them to articulate their needs, interests and aspirations.

Through Local Community Cells each rural resident or representative of different interest groups will be involved in the process and will be able to express their opinion, regardless of time or place, thus being an active participant in Parliament.

→ **Where will Local Community Cells be established??**

Community Cells will be established minimally in all 61 municipalities of the country, and with the help of supporters and rural development activists in around 400 local self-government administrative units.

→ **Local Community Cell Participants?**

Local community cell participants consist of all kind of stakeholders at grassroot level. A non-exhaustive list of them is as follows:

- Farmers, especially small ones;
- Young people from rural areas, students and teaching staff of high schools, university students, etc.
- Rural women, women producer groups, various agriculture clusters of women;
- Rural entrepreneurs; residents of rural areas, community groups, local CSOs; active citizens from local communities;
- Representatives of municipalities, administrative units, Agriculture Regional Departments, Agri points, extension service and other actors from the public sector;
- Representatives of the private sector and other actors and supporters of the rural development movement etc.

→ **Who will administer the Cells?**

The coordination in each cell will be carried out by an appointed Coordinator, who will enable the connection between ARP 2 and Cell participants to ensure a regular and active participation of local actors throughout the ARP 2 program.

The coordinator could be part of the staff and activists of ANRD member organizations as well as other grassroot organizations, local activists and leaders who possess the necessary communication, animation and management skills to manage cells in the respective local communities.

→ **Standard requirements for the cells' set up**

The cell for virtual participation is a public and / or private space that has the capacity to accommodate a maximum of 10 people respecting the rules of social distancing. This space will be used to ensure during two days the live

broadcast of ARP 2. A library, training room, NGO office, coffee bar, community center, mini-cinema, youth center, municipal council meeting office, administrative unit office, school, etc. can be used as space for the cell.

To all participants in the cell during their ARP 2 attendance will be offered coffee, tea, water and light lunch in accordance with the event's program.

→ **Responsibilities of the Local Community Cell Coordinator for Virtual Participation in ARP2**

The Coordinator (facilitator) will be selected by ANRD in consultation with its member organizations and other local partners. The selected coordinator will have the following responsibilities:

- Participate in the online orientation session that will be organized by the Albanian Network for Rural Development in the last week of February 2021.
- Be physically present in the cell for virtual participation during the two days of the ARP 2 event (4-5 March 2021) in accordance with the activity schedule.
- Provide the room with a laptop, camera and functional microphone as well as projector equipment.
- Be responsible for the space management in accordance with the rules of social distancing, providing masks and hand sanitizers for all participants.
- Ensure continuous attendance by local actors, a maximum of 10 and a minimum of 4 people present in the room at the same time, during the two days of the activity.
- Coordinate the arrival of participants distributing them equally along the different sessions of ARP 2, guaranteeing a stable participation in the cell so that it is never empty or exceeds the limit required in accordance with the rules of protection by Covid-19.
- Strive to ensure full participation (maximum 10 people) especially in small group talks during the two rounds.
- Ensure the provision of coffee, water, tea and lunch for cell participants during break times according to the ARP2 program.
- Encourage the audience in the cell to be active and contributing by asking questions, sharing concerns, needs and experiences, in a unified way through the cell coordinator.
- Register all participants and report their attendance list to ANRD.
- Promote ARP 2 and establish its visibility elements according to ANRD guidelines.

→ **Ensuring anti-COVID security by Local Community Cell Coordinators for Virtual Participation in ARP2**

Event organizers will conduct a short joint online training on managing the anti-COVID19 security situation for all the local coordinators. They will be explained in detail the responsibilities of ensuring anti-COVID19 safeguarding measures in terms of distances and maximum number of participants indoors, emphasizing that for no reason should these rules be violated. In cases where the number of participants is beyond the norms of safeguarding measures, in addition to guaranteeing the measures mentioned above, the Coordinator should also:

- Take measures not only to personally equip the participants with masks and disinfectants but also to never show up without the protective equipment.
- Ensure the presence inside the cell of a maximum of 10 people by personally taking care of the replacement of persons who have been present inside for a long time, with newly arrived ones.
- This process will be based on mutual understanding and in case of its lack/conflict the newly arrived persons will not be allowed to stay in the premises where the maximum number of attendees is exceeded.
- In accordance with the program of the event try to guarantee the participation of all interested parties, considering and keeping as high priority the issues of security and anti-COVID protection 19.

→ **Duration:**

The cell for virtual participation will remain open and will welcome participants throughout the dates 4-5 March 2021, from 09:00 - 16:00 (day I) and from 09:00 - 13:00 (day II).

ANRD constituents



albanian
rural
parliament

2 parlamenti
rural
shqiptar

Participatory
democracy

Demokraci
pjesëmtarëse